

CLAIMS

1. A method of transferring audio messages to a mobile entity across a mobile radio
 5 infrastructure, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) transferring to a service system a voice call made towards the mobile entity but which cannot be completed;
 - (b) recording the call at the service system and forming it into a data message addressed to the mobile entity;
 - 10 (c) at a time determined with a view to avoiding peak traffic loadings of the mobile radio infrastructure, passing the data message to the mobile entity over a data-capable bearer service of the mobile radio infrastructure; and
 - (d) storing the data message in the mobile entity for subsequent access by a user.
- 15 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the data message is passed to the mobile entity at a time corresponding to an off-peak charging rate through the mobile radio infrastructure according to a predetermined tariff schedule held or accessed by the service system.
- 20 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the data message is passed to the mobile entity at a time corresponding to an off-peak charging rate through the mobile radio infrastructure according to a charging schedule dynamically changed to take account of the actual loading of the mobile radio infrastructure, this schedule being accessed at least periodically by the service system.
- 25 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the data message is passed to the mobile entity at a time preset according to a schedule agreed with the operator of the mobile radio infrastructure for avoiding peak load periods on the infrastructure.
- 30 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the data message is passed to the mobile entity at a time negotiated with an arbitration system in communication with the mobile radio infrastructure, to satisfy transfer parameters specified by the service system for transfer of the data message through the mobile radio infrastructure.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the data message is passed to the mobile entity in response to the mobile radio infrastructure indicating to the service system that the mobile entity is available to receive the data message.

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7. A method according to claim 1, wherein voice call is converted to text at the service system for incorporation into the data message.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein transfer of the voice call to the service system results in the service system being provided with a called party ID identifying the mobile device, the service system using this ID to look up a destination address for the data message.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the data message is an e-mail message.

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